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# PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY NOTES.

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## PENNSYLVANIA FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION.

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*Head of Traveling Libraries.*

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### 1911.

The work of the Free Library Commission has been carried on during the past year with the same energy as in former times.

On December 31, 1911, there were 329 places in the State in which there were books loaned by the Commission to meet the needs of the people. With few exceptions, those books were in communities of less than one thousand population, and the exceptions were places where struggling libraries needed help or where there are study clubs which needed reference books covering the subjects on their programme. Nineteen thousand, one hundred and fifty-eight volumes were loaned, of which 15,799 served as free libraries, 1,696 went to study clubs, 1,548 to assist Public Libraries and 115 went to individuals in places where there are no library facilities.

We have felt somewhat the failure to advertise, which has shown itself in a falling off in the number of stations. For two or three years there have been so many applications that the supply of books would not hold out. We therefore did not do much in the way of advertising as it did not seem right to induce people to apply when we knew the application must be turned down.

During the fall visits have been made to farmers' institutes in Greene, Elk, Cameron, Centre, Carbon and Franklin Counties and the work of the Commission explained. It is hoped that in this way our work may be increased.

With the idea of encouraging the formation of local libraries in places where there are none, we have made it a rule to send books to but one point in any given town. This centralizes the interest in books, brings together those who are interested and makes more apparent the need and possibility of a public library.

The discouraging part of this work is the lack of permanence in the traveling library stations. Many places secure a collection of books but give up for one reason or another and do not get any more. We hope that sometime it will be possible for some one of the staff to visit each station at least twice a year. This would enable us to keep in touch with the work in the field and help keep things going; it would enable us to make a better selection of books, because we would know the character of the people and their interests; we would know when things were not going as they should and would be in a position to advise them as to the best way of doing the work. This is a long way off, but it is an important goal to work towards. When it is attained, the traveling library work will become a very important factor in the development of our State. The truth is that at the present time we are merely playing with one of the greatest moral forces but we are hoping that before long our people will wake up to its possibilities.

The work with libraries was prosecuted with vigor during the year and much has been accomplished. The following report gives some idea of what the above statement means:

|                                                                                                 |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of trips made, .....                                                                     | 23  |
| Number of days spent in the field (exclusive of summer school work), .....                      | 146 |
| Number of visits made, .....                                                                    | 176 |
| Libraries organized, .....                                                                      | 5   |
| Libraries reorganized, .....                                                                    | 1   |
| Library meetings attended in our State, .....                                                   | 9   |
| Meetings with trustees, clubs, committees, etc., for promoting and reorganizing purposes, ..... | 14  |

This is the work of the Consulting Librarian alone. In addition the Assistant Secretary made five visits in promoting library schemes, two visits to normal schools and ten to farmers' institutes in the interests of the traveling libraries, besides a number of visits to traveling library stations.

From this, it will be seen that the Free Library Commission has been attending to its work. Whether it is the result of this, or not, cannot be said, but this last year has been an active one in free library

matters. Indiana, Troy, and Pottsville, which began the year with not even the hope of a library, closed it with good collections of books and active work. In the case of Pottsville, where in the middle of January, it was felt that the time had not come for a library, on the first of March nearly \$11,000 had been subscribed, soon after the School Board had promised the proceeds of a half-mill tax for the maintenance and the library trustees were looking around for a trained worker to take charge.

A number of libraries for which plans had been made before were opened in 1911, and the Himmelreich Library at Lewisburg, threw its doors open to everyone.

There were also a large number of gifts and bequests for library purposes, as follows:

*Bethlehem.*

It is reported that a lot costing \$9,100 has been purchased by three citizens as a library site.

*Canton.* Received a bequest of \$40,000 from Charles S. Green, for a library building, equipment and endowment.

*Easton.* Mr. Carnegie gave \$7,500 for an addition to the present building.

*Hazleton.* The \$50,000 building given by Mr. John Markle is nearing completion.

*Mansfield.* Mr. Carnegie gave \$5,000 with which a very nice building has been erected.

*Newtown.* A very attractive building costing \$5,000 has been erected as the result of a bequest from Joseph Barnsley.

*Quakertown.* The Richlands Library was given a residence costing \$3,000 by several of the citizens for library purposes.

*Ridley Park.* Received \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a library building.

*Wellsboro.* Was a beneficiary under the will of Charles S. Green, \$50,000 being left for a library, equipment and endowment.

### **THE YEAR AMONG THE LIBRARIES.**

*Ardmore.*

The Public Library is being reorganized under the direction of the Library Commission by the librarian and some of the trustees.

*Beaver Falls.*

The children's room has been opened in charge of a special assistant, with new furniture and new books. Also a Saturday morning story hour begun, and plans made for teaching the school children how to

use the library. The last report shows a circulation of 30,521 and 11,000 volumes.

*Berwyn.*

The annual fall oyster supper netted the library \$120 and the book reception brought in 100 desirable books. The library is supported by the citizens' association.

*Bethlehem.*

Miss Elizabeth D. Burrows has been appointed librarian of the Free Library of the Bethlehems in place of Miss Isabel Turner, resigned, and Miss Caroline Herbst librarian of the South Bethlehem branch. New quarters have been provided for the South Bethlehem branch in a large, light, cheery room, formerly used by a bank. The library has also been given a more substantial support through the generosity of some of the citizens.

*Bloomsburg.*

Miss Edith Patterson, Pittsburgh, '04, was appointed librarian of the Public Library in place of Miss Blanche B. Williams, resigned.

*Braddock.*

A special assistant had been appointed to push ahead the re-classification of the library.

*Bradford.*

The Carnegie Library report shows a steady gain in its usefulness. For the year ending February, 1911, with 16,914 volumes a circulation of 93,604 volumes was reached, among 6,239 readers.

*Canton.*

After twelve years active work in cramped quarters, the Canton Library is to have a building through the generosity of the late Charles S. Green, of Roaring Branch, Pa. He left \$40,000 for building, books and endowment. They hope to begin the building early in 1912.

*Chester.*

The West End Library has started a story hour for smaller children, held on Saturday morning. Also the class for teaching foreigners English has been resumed. The Wednesday afternoon sewing class numbers over two hundred and the physicians of the neighborhood have volunteered to give twelve lectures of popular interest. The annual Fall book reception brought in 130 books and \$9 in money.

*Conshohocken.*

Miss Amy Baldwin, Drexel, '08, was appointed librarian in place of Miss Lehman, who resigned.

*Coudersport.*

With 5,000 volumes, the Public Library had a circulation of over 21,000. It is free for anyone living in the county.

*Hanover.*

The new Public Library was opened on October 4, 1911, in a beautiful building given by Mr. Howard E. Young in memory of his son, and with 5,000 volumes on the shelves. The old Highbee Library in the public school was taken as a nucleus. To this were added other collections of books from the Sunday Schools, musical club, county physicians' association, and the civic club had \$500 for juvenile books. Miss Mabel N. Champlin, Pratt '08, was appointed librarian.

*Harrisburg.*

Miss Helen U. Price, for several years consulting librarian for the Free Library Commission, was married on July 29th to Frank L. Harvey, of Foxburg, Pa.

*Hazleton.*

Miss Reba F. Lehman, Drexel '08, was appointed librarian of the Public Library in March.

Through the generosity of Mr. John Markle, a \$50,000 library building will soon be ready for use.

*Homestead.*

A Slavoc-American Literary Club of over 100 members is a recent addition to the library's work.

*Huntingdon.*

Miss Ella M. Sheeley has been made librarian of the Juniata College Library in the place of Miss Mary Hershberger, who was married in June.

*Indiana.*

Through the efforts of the New Century Club, a Free Library was added to the Reading Room and opened for public use on April 1st. 1911. It is housed in rooms given by the club with Miss Lillian D. Thompson as librarian. The library is well organized and begins with 1,000 volumes.

*Jenkintown.*

The boys of the Reading Club raised \$100 to purchase a lantern for their use.

*Kane.*

The *Reader's Guide* from 1904 to date has been added to the library and systematic work with schools begun. Also a duplicate pay collection of fiction has been started. The first year's report gives a circulation of 17,052, a registration of 1,657 and 2,348 volumes.

*Lancaster.*

Miss Marion S. Skeelee has resigned as librarian of the A. Herr Smith Library to accept the position of librarian of the Hazlewood Branch, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh. Miss Mary E. Hoover, the assistant librarian, is in charge temporarily.

*Lansdowne.*

The trustees' room in the Public Library has been fitted up for a reference room, the crowded condition of the library making the change necessary. Last year with 5,760 volumes, the circulation reached 18,000.

*Lewisburg.*

The W. D. Himmelreich Library was reorganized by Miss Sarah Young and Miss Charlotte Shields, the librarian. A dictionary catalogue was made, the Dewey classification introduced and the Newark charging system installed. The shelves were opened to the public, and a story hour made possible by the help given by Miss Martin. There has been a marked increase in the use of the library.

*Lock Haven.*

The Ross Library was given a birthday party on Thanksgiving Day by the Civic Club. It received 300 books and eighty-five dollars as an expression of appreciation of its first year's work. Miss Florence Hulings, Pratt '11, was appointed librarian in place of Miss Anna V. Taggert, who resigned in July. The first annual report states they have 4,306 volumes and had a circulation of 12,867 the first five months after opening.

*Malvern.*

The Free Library has been moved from the Friends' school building into a good-sized room in the town building given by councils. The room is well-adapted for library use and nearer the center of the town.

*Mansfield.*

The Mansfield Public Library has received a gift of \$5,000 from Mr. Carnegie for a library building, which is nearing completion. The citizens raised over \$1,000 for a site, and some additions more than guaranteed support would allow them to receive from Mr. Carnegie. Their tax support is the maximum the law allows.

*Mauch Chunk.*

Miss Emily Jackson, librarian of the Dimmock Memorial Library, was married in January, 1911, and Miss Inez Crandle, of the New York Public Library, was appointed in her place. Miss Crandle is a graduate of Syracuse University, '10.

*Meshoppen.*

The collection of 500 volumes, which had been gradually given to the Reading Room, and supplemented with a State Traveling Library, was organized and opened as a Free Library in February, 1911. It is housed in a room given by the fire company. Miss Frances E. Kennard is librarian.

*Montrose.*

The Free Library has now twenty-one stations throughout the county. It is the first real county library system in Pennsylvania.

*New Castle.*

The first year in the new quarters has been very encouraging. A larger support was given by councils, new furniture added, work with schools planned for and a girls' reading club started. Miss Nora H. Giele, Pittsburgh '10, has been appointed children's librarian.

*Norristown.*

The William McCann Library has been moved into larger, although not quite so convenient quarters, on the second floor of a building used for school purposes, and just across the street from the High School building. Miss Helen A. Bomberger has been appointed librarian in the place of Miss Mumford, resigned. The library reports show a steadily increasing interest upon the part of the readers.

*North East.*

The Public Library has been moved into new quarters on the second floor of a supplementary school building and while the location is not so good there are more rooms, giving a children's room and reference room.

*Oil City.*

Miss Emily S. Glezen, Drexel '09, has been appointed librarian of the Carnegie Library. Much interest is manifested in broadening the work of the library and as a result, a small deposit station of Polish books will soon be opened.

*Pottsville.*

After several years of agitation, Pottsville raised by subscription over \$11,000 to found a Public Library which receives an appropriation for maintenance from the school board. Miss Daisy B. Sabin, Drexel '04, was appointed librarian and a building rented. The library was opened to the public on November 8, 1911, with 3,800 volumes ready for circulation.

*Reading.*

The new \$100,000 Carnegie building is well under way.

*Ridley Park.*

Through the generosity of Mr. Carnegie, the town is building a \$10,000 library with a support of \$1,000 appropriated by councils. The building is of grey stone and will be ready for use early in 1912.

*Royersford.*

The Public Library was reorganized, an additional room secured and a number of new books added early in 1911, with Miss Ethel Buzby as librarian. A very successful year has followed.

*Saegertown.*

The Free Library and Civic Club rooms have been moved into larger rooms on the main street. Over 100 new books had been added during the year.

*Sayre.*

Through the efforts of the Library Club, a Public Library of over 1,000 volumes and a reading room supplied with 30 magazines, has been opened in the Cummings Memorial Parish House. Mrs. F. L. Heavner is librarian.

*Scottdale.*

The free Library, made possible by the gift of Mr. A. L. Kiester, and opened for use on November 5, 1910, has been doing splendid work. It is located in library rooms in the new High School building with 4,000 volumes ready for circulation. Miss Daisy Smith, Drexel, '03, was appointed librarian.

*Scranton.*

The Albright Library has opened a branch on the South Side.

*Sewickley.*

The Public Library rooms have been much improved by a re-arrangement of the cases, gaining space for two new cases and making a children's corner possible. The library now contains 10,129 volumes and had a circulation of 27,871 the last year with 2,974 readers.

*Spring City.*

The Free Library has again outgrown its quarters, and more space will have to be provided soon. The Woman's Auxiliary has been formed into a Literary Club. They gave a much-needed desk to the library and have helped materially in the raising of funds.

*State College.*

On December 4, 1911, a mass meeting of the citizens was held to organize a Library Association for the support and advancement of their Public Library, founded in 1898. A Christmas play given by the children before the Woman's Literary Club was repeated as benefit for the Public Library.

*Troy.*

The Public Library is being organized by Miss Katherine Paine, the librarian and several trustees, aided by the Library Commission in an attractive room in the county building.

*Tunkhannock.*

Through the efforts of the local chapter of the D. A. R., Tunkhannock is supplied with a Free Library of over 1,323 volumes in pleasant quarters in the D. A. R. building. The library is well organized with Miss Mary D. Childs, librarian.

The first year's report for the 10 months of use by the public, shows 530 borrowers, a circulation of over 6,000 volumes. A story hour for children, with Miss Lewis as story-teller has been very successful.

*Union City.*

The Public Library report shows a very encouraging growth. With a population of 3,104 and 1,921 volumes in the library, there were 1,489 borrowers and a circulation of 12,420 books.

*Warren.*

Report for year ending January 1, 1912.

Additions during the year, 1,415; total number of volumes 23,097. Issued for home use, 51,321. Bulletins catalogued, 408. Public documents added and catalogued, 273. Number of magazines in reading room, 83. Receipts, \$6,059.82; expenditures, \$5,445.15.

The work in the children's department is especially alive. Bulletins, birthday portraits, story hour, etc., are all kept up. The relation between the school and the library is very close, the pupils using the reference department each day, and such books as they need are reserved on special shelves. The reading room is open on Sundays from 2 to 5 P. M.

*Wellsboro.*

By a bequest from Charles S. Green, who died at Roaring Branch, Lycoming county, on March 27, 1911, Wellsboro has \$50,000 for a Public Library; \$10,000 to be used for a building; \$8,000 for books and equipment and \$32,000 for an endowment.

*West Chester.*

A children's room in charge of a special assistant was opened in October. The room was especially well located for the purpose, being near the entrance and well lighted. Small tables and chairs were put in and an attractive frieze placed over the book cases. A story hour was conducted by students from the State Normal School.

*Williamsport.*

The James V. Brown Library has established two branches, one in the Silk Mill Branch of the Y. W. C. A. and one at Montoursville.

**Subscription Libraries.***Butler.*

The Public Library has started a deposit station in East Butler, using a store for the purpose. Has also eleven libraries in schools. During the summer the librarian finished a subject catalogue of the library. The library now has 3,704 volumes and circulated 16,039 books for home use.

*Carlisle.*

Mr. W. Homer Ames has been appointed librarian of the Bosler Memorial Library in place of Miss Gertrude Reed, resigned.

*Chester.*

Miss Martha Kenworthy for many years librarian of the Free Library was forced to resign on account of ill health and Mrs. Irene J. Still has been appointed to take her place.

*Newtown.*

A \$5,000 building, the legacy of Joseph Barnsley, has been completed and the library moved into its new quarters. The new building is of red brick with grey stone trimmings, finished on the inside with oak. There are two front rooms, one on each side of the entrance, for reading and reference. The stack extends across the back of the building with the desk in the center opposite the door. It is a very well lighted, convenient, cozy little building.

*Quakertown.*

The Richland Library Company now in its 117th year has recently purchased an old-fashioned house on Main street, adapted for library use. This was made possible by some generous contributions. The library has been reorganized by the librarian, Miss Freda Haring and moved into its new quarters.

**Normal School Libraries.***Mansfield.*

Miss Sarah F. Gates, librarian of the State Normal School, was married in September to Mr. W. D. Crockett, State College, Pa. Miss Maud J. Stull, of Canton, Pa., has been appointed librarian.

*Millersville.*

Miss Helen Ganser, Drexel '11, has been appointed librarian in place of Miss Gaston, who resigned.

**College Libraries.***State College—Carnegie Library.*

Miss Susan K. Becker, for several years reference librarian, was married on September 14, to Mr. John H. Furgeson, of Columbia,

Mo. Her place was taken by Miss Elizabeth Forrest, a graduate of the Illinois University Library School. Miss Margaret McMichael, Drexel '11, was made assistant cataloguer.

*Washington.*

Miss Fannie E. Lowes has been made librarian of the Washington and Jefferson College Library.

**New Libraries Opened in 1911.**

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Meshoppen,   | February 25, 1911.         |
| Tunkhannock, | March 15, 1911.            |
| Indiana,     | April 1, 1911.             |
| Hanover,     | October 4, 1911.           |
| Pottsville,  | November 8, 1911.          |
| Lewisburg,   | Made free January 1, 1911. |

**NEIGHBORHOOD STAFF MEETINGS.**

*Blairsville.*

The neighborhood staff meeting of the Allegheny Valley District met in the Public Library on March 24, 1911. Two interesting sessions were held with seven libraries represented by thirty-three people.

*Carlisle.*

The neighborhood staff meeting of the Harrisburg District was held in Carlisle on May 4, 1911, at the Bosler Memorial Library. Eleven libraries were represented by thirty-one people and a good programme presented. Judge Edward Biddle, a trustee, made an address. Thomas L. Montgomery gave a report of the work done by the Legislative Reference Bureau, and a fiction symposium was conducted by Miss Goddard, of Hagerstown, Md. The afternoon session was given to a paper on "What a library may mean to a town" by Robert P. Bliss, followed by a discussion on ways for starting a library and a discussion of the value of story telling.

*Jenkintown.*

The May meeting of the Philadelphia District neighborhood staff meeting was held at Jenkintown in the new Abington Library, on May 17, 1911. Eleven libraries were represented by twenty-two people. The programme was as follows: An address by Mr. Ridpath, of Jenkintown; a discussion on "What the public school expects of the library," by Prof. Groff, principal of the Jenkintown High School, and Prof. Cleaver, principal of the Cheltenham High School; "What we are doing for the public school," by Miss Sara Evans, West Chester High School Library; "Two-book circulation," by Miss Julia A. Hopkins, Drexel Institute; "History of the Abington Library," by

Miss Helen E. Williams; the "Story of the founding of the Conshohocken Library," by Mrs. A. Conrad Jones; and "Aids and devices to reference work," by Mrs. Warner, Bryn Mawr College Library.

*Malvern.*

The Public Library entertained the neighborhood staff meeting on November 15, 1911. The programme consisted of a "Summary of the Keystone State Library meeting, Saegertown," by Miss Donnelly, Drexel Institute, and Miss MacDonald, Harrisburg; a paper by Miss Endicott on "What makes a juvenile book mediocre;" and a discussion of new books. In spite of the very inclement weather the meeting was attended by twenty-eight representatives from fifteen libraries.

*Meadville.*

The seventh annual meeting of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Library Association, was held in the library of the Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., on June 8-9, 1911. There was a good attendance, and a part of the programme consisted of an address by Dr. William H. Crawford, president of the college; a consideration of the "Work in small libraries"—"inside the library," by Miss Monchow, of Dunkirk, and "Outside the walls," by Mrs. Hard, of Erie; Dr. Franklin C. Southworth, gave an address on "Henrick Ibsen and his message." Mr. Walter C. Green, librarian, of the Theological Library, discussed the "Reference Department;" Dr. W. A. Elliott, "Helping students use the library;" Miss Clara B. McJunkin talked on the "Care and use of clippings," and Miss Anna MacDonald conducted a fiction symposium.

*Tioga.*

The Mansfield District neighborhood staff meeting was held in Tioga on May 26, 1911, with seven libraries represented. Miss Mary S. Shepard, of Mansfield, gave an exhibition of mending and recasing of books; Miss Stella Doane, of the Drexel Institute Library School, read a paper on "What a library may mean to a small town;" Mr. L. E. Channel, of Wellsboro, on "How to finance a library," and Miss Sarah F. Gates talked on "Book Buying, when and where." Each paper was followed by a general discussion of the subject.

*Wyalusing.*

The fifth annual meeting of the Towanda neighborhood staff meeting was held in the Free Library, Wyalusing, on June 13. Miss Mary D. Childs, of Tunkhannock, read a paper on "Centralizing library work in a town;" Miss Helen Rockwell talked of "Children's work in Cleveland Public Library;" and a fiction symposium based

on Miss Corinne Bacon's paper on "What makes a novel immoral," was entered into with enthusiasm. The morning session was shortened enough to give time for a fine automobile ride to Camptown.

### **SUBSCRIPTION VS. FREE LIBRARIES.**

The problem confronting many of our libraries established many years ago and organized in the manner then in vogue, is, how to change to the newer plan in order to make them of greater use and to secure a larger support. Many libraries have done this and the experiences of some of them may be helpful and suggestive to those contemplating such a change.

The Abington Library of Jenkintown, was revived in its 99th year. The old stock company had dwindled to 13 members and the library to 1,570 dusty, unused books housed in a very dilapidated building. With the consent of the stockholders, a group of interested people had the books cleaned and moved into better quarters. They raised some money for reorganizing the library and purchasing books and reopened for use. On its one-hundredth birthday it was made free. There are no statistics available showing the use of the library before it was reorganized, but the first report afterward was as follows: Volumes, 3,553; circulation, 5,898; borrowers, 289; visitors, 8,671, and \$1,830.56 contributed towards running expenses and endowment fund.

Eight years afterwards finds the library housed in a beautiful \$15,000 building with an endowment fund of about \$10,000. The number of volumes has grown to 7,120; circulation to 11,838; borrowers to 699; visitors to 14,597 and funds for maintenance alone about \$1,500.

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The W. D. Himmelreich Library was established in 1898 as an endowed library connected with the Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg. It was founded by a bequest which provided for a beautiful building and an endowment fund for purchase of books, etc. For many years it was run as a Sunday School library, but others could get the use of the books by paying an annual fee. In 1910 the trustees felt that something should be done to increase its usefulness and after careful consideration decided to make it free to all. This step was taken with much hesitation, but the following report of the first year's work shows how needless the hesitation was:

The Himmelreich Library began the year 1911 with a new system of classification and with revised rules and regulations. Naturally, it is of interest to note the results of changes that have cost not only money, but much time and labor as well.

The new system of classification, which places together on the shelves books treating of the same subject, has brought to notice a great many books that were formerly passed by. Also, because the books of a general reference character are placed together in one corner of the reading room, reference work can now be done with much more ease and quickness. Besides, the card catalogue saves much time by enabling one to see at a glance what books upon a given subject are to be found in the library. Altogether, then, with a more systematic arrangement of books and a fuller card catalogue, the resources of the library are now more than ever available to the public.

Not only have its resources become more available, but its privileges have been greatly extended. Free use of the library was granted to the residents of Lewisburg and vicinity; an additional opening was arranged for Saturday afternoons, for the special benefit of children; fines were imposed for detention of books; books were reserved upon payment of a cent for notice; and during the latter part of the year, two books (only one of which might be fiction) were allowed to be drawn on a card.

As a result of these new rules and regulations, the number of borrowers has more than doubled; the boys and girls of the public schools have taken advantage of the opportunity to read and to borrow books, and through the story hour have become acquainted with some of the best juvenile literature; the fines imposed have helped to keep the books in better circulation; providing, at the same time, additional funds; the reserving of books has enabled borrowers to have equal chance in getting the new books, if they so desired; and for various reasons, a number of borrowers have found it desirable to draw two books at a time.

With these facts in mind, it is hardly necessary to say that the library has this year been of greater value to the public.

In 1912, however, we wish to make the library of still greater benefit to those who have opportunity to use it. Its system is not yet clear to many. A plan for teaching pupils of the public schools how to use a library has been successfully tried in many places. Such a course for high school students has already been prepared, and it is to be given in our High School this winter. Courses for the lower grades are also in preparation. We hope in this way to help at least some of those who should and do make much use of the library.

A few new magazines along some lines not before represented are expected to contribute to the value and interest of the reading room.

## Comparative statement for the years 1910 and 1911:

|                                                                              | 1910   | 1911    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Total number of books in circulation, ...                                    | 2,214  | 10,394  |
| Fiction, .....                                                               | 1,987  | 7,995   |
| Non-fiction, .....                                                           | 227    | 2,399   |
| Number of borrowers, .....about                                              | 200    | 706     |
| Number of borrowers, not members of<br>the Sunday School or Congregation, .. | 0      | 459     |
| Reading Room attendance, .....                                               | 2,007  | 3,259   |
| Story Hours, .....                                                           | 0      | 26      |
| Story hour attendance, .....                                                 | 0      | 1,106   |
| Subscriptions, .....                                                         | \$5.00 | 0       |
| Fines, .....                                                                 | 0      | \$39.55 |

The following report was received from Malvern Public Library in answer to a request for a statement of the first year's work as a free library:

"I am only too glad to give you the information desired, and I sincerely hope it may be the means of encouraging subscription libraries to become free libraries. We have never regretted the move we made almost a year ago, and although our financial condition has, at times, been rather strained, nevertheless we are greatly elated over the success we have had with our venture. I believe I am voicing the opinion of the Board of Trustees when I state that we would not, for one moment, consider the question of going back to the subscription library.

"As to the matter of statistics showing growth, etc., of the library, I think this can be best shown by sending you a copy of the report made for six months on May 31st, 1910, and of the report which will be handed in at our May meeting on the 8th, which, although it is not for one year, is near enough to give any one an idea of the rapid growth.

"I would particularly call your attention to the difference in the number of books donated and the cash received for the Book Reception of February, 1910, and that of February, 1911.

"Then, whenever we have a market, festival, or in fact anything for the benefit of the library, nearly all the town turns out to do us 'homage.' Where, before we were free, there seemed to be a feeling that the library was only for a certain class of people—those who had money enough to take out a subscription—the class we really wanted to reach remained away.

“You will notice that the increase in the number of readers which means those that sit and read in the library for a half hour or more. All of these readers have been boys, with only two, or perhaps not more than six young men. So you see the younger generation is beginning to be interested. The boys are even so interested that they beg me to let them help me when I have any cataloguing to do or even repair work, in fact I am so overrun with youngsters that I cannot move for fear of stepping on them. I believe that we are at last reaching the class of people whom the library will benefit, viz., mill hands and the poorer classes, and this class seems to appreciate what is being done for them and always try to help us out whenever they can. However, we shall soon see how interested the upper classes are, for we are now soliciting Association dues for the ensuing year. So far, the Committee report they have been very successful, having had very few ‘turn downs.’

“Perhaps I would better explain the meaning of the term ‘Association Dues.’ Our library is supported (partially) by an Association, to become a member of which, it is necessary to pay One Dollar per annum. This sum entitles the person in whose name it is made to the withdrawal of two (2) books at a time and the privilege of taking part, voting, etc., in any meeting of the Association. The Association thus formed elects fifteen (15) trustees to serve for one year and the 15 trustees elect their own officers, who have full charge of the government of the library. At the April meeting (second Monday of the month) a Committee of five (5) members is appointed to solicit Association Dues for the ensuing year, which begins the second Monday in June. At the May meeting a Committee of five members is appointed by the chair (two of this committee being officers of the Board of Trustees) who secure from the Association Dues Committee a list of the members for the year and from this list choose thirty (30) suitable persons, posting these names in the library two weeks before the Annual Meeting in June, from which list the Association members shall vote for 15. In the event of an Association member not being able to be present, he or she may hand in a sealed vote to the Librarian, same to remain sealed until the counting of votes by the proper tellers.

“I trust I have written you the desired information, if not, do not hesitate to ask for whatever more you need, I shall be only too glad to give it to you. If you so desire, you may scatter this letter and contents anywhere you think it will encourage other libraries to take the same step we did about a year ago.

“Made free June 1st, 1910.”

|                                   | 1909-10    | 1910-11    |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Volumes, donated, . . . . .       | 248 & \$25 | 369 & \$38 |
| Volumes in library, . . . . .     | 2,184      | 2,454      |
| Borrowers, . . . . .              | 144        | 433        |
| Circulation, books, . . . . .     | 2,008      | 9,176      |
| Circulation, magazines, . . . . . | 143        | 378        |
| Readers (in the library), . . .   | 324        | 1,189      |

#### SUMMER SCHOOL.

Last year the authorities of the Pennsylvania State College decided that librarians were co-workers with teachers in the educational field and were entitled to recognition as such. They, therefore, opened the doors of the Summer Course for Teachers to librarians on an equal footing. It is possible, under this decision, for such library workers as desire to take advantage of this opportunity to take a vacation in a beautiful spot, at a beautiful time of the year, and at the same time pursue courses in the study of some subject in which they are interested. This is a splendid offer and our librarians are urged to take advantage of it.

At the same time the Free Library Commission was offered all the necessary facilities for conducting a school of instruction for librarians if they desired to establish one. As the Commission had, for several years, been considering the possibility of undertaking such work and had been deterred by the lack of just what the College offered, the opportunity was gratefully seized and plans made. Miss Julia A. Hopkins, of the Drexel Institute Library School, and Miss Helen G. Betterly, Children's Librarian in the Osterhout Free Library, Wilkes-Barre, were secured to assist the members of the Commission staff in giving instruction.

The session began on June 26th, closing August 4th. Special lectures were given by Dr. E. W. Runkle, librarian, Carnegie Library, State College, on the “Psychology of reading;” Mr. Gilbert D. Emerson, Philadelphia, on “Bookbinding;” Mr. Thomas L. Montgomery, State Librarian, on “Some prominent library workers;” Mr. Robert P. Bliss, Assistant Secretary Free Library Commission, on “Pennsylvania libraries,” “Book buying,” and “Book ordering;” Miss Mary A. True, Foxburg, Pa., on “The work of a small village library;” Miss Caroline Burnite, Cleveland Public Library, on “Children's work;” and Mrs. H. L. Elmendorff, Buffalo Public Library, on “Children's poetry.” Miss Julia A. Hopkins gave twenty-two lectures on Reference work, book selection and administration. Miss

Helen G. Betterly gave six lectures on children's work; Miss A. A. MacDonald, Free Library Commission, gave fifty lectures on cataloguing, classification, subject headings, accessioning, shelf listing magazine and book reviewing; and Mrs. Mary E. Prowell, Free Library Commission, gave four hours' instruction in book mending.

Fifteen students were enrolled as follows:—

Bailey, Maud M., Private Secretary, State College, partial course.

Balderston, Edith C. C., In. Friend's Library, Philadelphia.

Bedford, Sarah P., In. Library Association, West Chester.

Buzby, Ethel, In. Public Library, Royersford.

Clapp, Mrs. Helen M., Asst. In. Ross Library, Lock Haven, partial course.

Currey, Adda Roe, Asst. Cataloguer, Free Library Commission, Harrisburg, partial course.

Etters, Jessie D., asst., Carnegie Library, State College, Pa., partial course.

Gray, Julia C., In. Agricultural Library, State College, partial course.

Hesse, Marie, teacher, Bethlehem, partial course.

Peterson, M. Leona, In. Public Library, Kane.

Potts, Edith W., Ref. In. Academy Library, Bryn Athyn.

Sheeley, Ella M., In. Juniata College Library, Huntingdon.

Shields, Charlotte E., In. Himmelreich Library, Lewisburg, Pa.

Smedley, Rebecca, jr., In. Free Library, Media.

Stroh, Cornelia E., cataloguer, Academy Library, Bryn Athyn.

Practically the same course will be given by the same instructors for the 1912 session. A special course of 30 hours is to be added for teachers; not to include instruction in library economy but to give instruction in the use of a library and reference books, to study children's books, books for supplementary reading, lists, etc. Miss Martha Conner, cataloguer, Carnegie Library State College, will give eighteen hours' lecture in this course.

#### **A. L. A. CATALOGUE 1904-11.**

Librarians and book committees should note the fact that a supplement to the A. L. A. Catalogue, 1904, is about to be issued by the A. L. A. Publishing Board. This volume, which will be called the "A. L. A. Catalogue, 1904-11," will, in effect, be a cumulation of the "Booklist" for these years. There will, however, be some changes. Some of the books which have found a place in the Booklist have been already superseded or have lost their usefulness and will not be found in the permanent list. Others, which were overlooked before will be

included in the new volume. The work will therefore be made up of those books which have been tried and found useful and of more permanent value. The editing, in spite of all the difficulties, has been ably done and reflects great credit on the editor-in-chief.

The new volume is to be issued by the A. L. A. Publishing Board instead of the Library of Congress, and will be sold from the Chicago office. The price will be \$1.50, but for copies ordered in advance of publication the price will be \$1.00. The attention of librarians and book committees is called to the opportunity to get this indispensable tool so cheaply and they are urged to put in an order at once. The book will be necessary to the proper selection of books and should be in every library at the earliest moment.

#### **PERIODICALS FOR SALE.**

The attention of librarians is called to the fact that James A. Case, of Otis, Mass., has a number of bound volumes of periodicals which he wishes to dispose of. Those who wish to complete files, may find it of advantage to communicate with him about the matter.

#### **EXCHANGE COLUMN.**

Some of the libraries have discovered and made good use of the collection of periodicals gathered by the Free Library Commission. Most of the complete volumes have been given away but there are still many odd numbers which might be useful in completing volumes. The Commission will be glad to hear from libraries which need assistance along this line. They are also ready to receive any duplicate magazines the libraries wish to dispose of. These will be passed on to places where they will be of service.

The Free Library Commission will be glad to hear from libraries having unused copies of the Reader's Guide and the Book Review Digest, either monthly or yearly. These may be of much use in the small libraries which are not able to subscribe.

They would also like to hear from the small libraries which subscribe to magazines and could use the indexes to advantage.

The Troy Public Library has a copy of the A. L. A. Catalogue, 1904, which it would like to dispose of.

The Public Library, Kane, Pa., has a copy of Dewey, Abridged decimal classification for sale.

